Please submit field forms, a copy of a USGS map, and all supporting documentation to:

Database Manager
Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Route 135, Westborough MA 01581
(508) 389-6360

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

RARE PLANT OBSERVATION FORM

SPECIES SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Element Occurrence No., if known:**

Observation Date: **Today's Date:** **Population Found?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

Observed By: **Other Observers:**

Observer's Address:

Observer's Email Address: **Telephone:**

Photograph Taken? ☐ Yes ☐ No (if yes, please attach, and label back with your name, date taken, and the location)

Specimen Collected? ☐Yes ☐No Collection # Repository:

Site Name (informal)**:** **USGS Topo Name:**

County: **Town:**

Directions to the rare plant population (if found), or search area (if not found). **Mark the location on a copy of the USGS topo map.**

GPS Coordinates: System used (check one): ☐ UTM ☐ Lat-Long ☐ Mass. State Plane Datum:

At, or near, the center of the population:

Other waypoints and coordinates:

Has the full extent of the population been determined? (check one) ☐ yes; ☐ no ; ☐ uncertain whether full extent is known
Identification Problems? ☐ Yes ☐ No **Explain:**
Diagnostic Characteristics (Pls. be specific):

Reference used:
Do other members of the genus or look-alike plants occur at this site? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Explain:

Population Data

Approximate Area Occupied by the Population (check appropriate unit): ☐sq. m ☐ ha ☐ sq. ft ☐ sq. yds ☐acres
Population Size:

Total number of "genets" (i.e., genetically distinct, or clearly separate individuals): (☐ Precise count *or* ☐ estimate?)

and/or

Total number of "ramets" (e.g., stems or shoots arising from clones): (☐ Precise count *or* ☐ estimate?)

Population Structure (check all that apply)**:**

Age Classes Present	Reproductive Condition of the Population on this Date	
☐ Seedlings	☐ Vegetative (in leaf)	☐ Mature fruit
☐ Immature plants	☐ In bud	☐ Seed dispersing
☐ Mature plants	☐ In flower	☐ Senescent
☐ Plants of unknown age	☐ Immature fruit	☐ Dormant

How would you characterize the vigor of this population? ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

Evidence of Disease, Predation, or Injury? **Pollinators:**

Environmental Setting

Describe the plant community and list the associated species:

List any exotic plant species present and discuss their possible impacts:

Describe evidence of natural or human-caused disturbance (including changes in ecological processes) **and effects on population:**

Surrounding Land Use:

Elevation: ☐ft. or ☐m? **Soil Type(s):**

Surficial Geology: **Bedrock Geology:**

Check Appropriate Habitat Descriptors:

Landform/Topography	Aspect °	Slope %	Light	Soil Moisture Regime	Important Ecological Processes
☐summit/crest	☐N ☐NE	☐flat	☐open	☐xeric	☐seasonal or regular flooding
☐upper slope	☐E ☐SE	☐gentle	☐filtered	☐dry	☐groundwater seepage
☐mid slope	☐S ☐SW	☐average	☐shade	☐mesic	☐colluvial processes
☐lower slope	☐W ☐NW	☐rather steep		☐wet	☐alluvial processes
☐rolling terrain/plain	☐flat/variable	☐steep		☐inundated	☐wind/salt spray
☐flood plain/terrace		☐very steep			☐erosion
☐wetland		☐abrupt			☐fire
☐shore/pond/lake/stream					☐none apparent

Describe Microhabitat Conditions:

Conservation Information

Land Owned/Managed by:

Name(s) Address Telephone

Managed Area Name: **Contact Person:**

Owner Comments:

What additional factors might potentially threaten the population (e.g. land clearing, development project) If yes, describe?

What are your recommendations for future inventory, monitoring, research, and/or management?

What are your protection recommendations?

Additional Comments:

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

For office use only: *Relative Size: _____ Relative Condition: _____ Relative Landscape Context: _____ MA EO Rank: _____*

MA EO Rank Comments: _____

Global EO Rank: _____ Global EO Rank Comments: _____

Sketch:

Use this space to draw or diagram useful information about the rare plant occurrence, such as its location relative to landmarks and habitat features. Consider depicting, for instance, a vertical cross section of a population's position on a ledge or slope, or how a population is distributed in clumped patches in the habitat relative to boulders, stone walls, brooks, trees, etc.

Please:

Don't forget to attach a copy of a USGS topo map indicating the location of the rare plants or the search area!

Mark the location of the rare plants as precisely as possible, and label with the map source, date and species name.